

Message Text

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72

ORIGIN OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01

NSC-05 ERDA-05 NRC-05 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /077 R

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EA/PRCM:JTAYLOR

EUR/SOV:SPOLANSKY

EUR/WE:WMARSH

NEA/INS:BBROWN

S/P:WEGATHRIGHT

----- 033099

R 031537Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 128767

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJECT:ASTP MISSION

1. FOR MOSCOW: WE PLAN TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING APPROACHES
TO THE COUNTRIES LISTED. PLEASE INQUIRE OF THE SOVIET
FOREIGN MINISTRY IF THEY HAVE ANY PLANS OR OBJECTIONS TO OUR
PASSING THESE NOTIFICATIONS.

2. PLEASE INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE FOLLOWING
AFTER RECEIVING CLEARANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT WHICH WILL BE
BASED UPON THE ANSWER FROM MOSCOW:

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A. THE APOLLO-SOYUZ TEST FLIGHT MISSION, SCHEDULED
FOR A LAUNCH DATE OF JULY 15, 1975, WILL INCLUDE FLIGHT AT
ALTITUDES AS LOW AS 118 NM. THIS IS LOW ENOUGH, IN OUR
OPINION, THAT EYE DAMAGE COULD OCCUR IF EVEN A LOW ALTITUDE

NUCLEAR DETONATION WERE VISIBLE TO THE ASTRONAUTS OR COSMONAUTS. FURTHERMORE, A HIGH ALTITUDE TEST (ABOVE 50-60,000 FEET) COULD CAUSE ADVERSE RADIATION EFFECTS. THE ORBITAL PATH OF THE SPACECRAFT WILL RANGE OVER THE EARTH'S SURFACE BETWEEN 52 DEGREES NORTH AND 52 DEGREES SOUTH. THE SOYUZ SPACECRAFT WILL DESCEND AND LAND ON JULY 21 AND THE APOLLO

SPACECRAFT WILL LAND ON JULY 24.

B. THE US GOVERNMENT IS REQUESTING THE COOPERATION OF ALL GOVERNMENTS HAVING THE CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS IN AVOIDING TESTS THAT COULD AFFECT THE APOLLO/SOYUZ FLIGHT. WE WILL APPRECIATE THE COOPERATION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT IN THIS REGARD. IF YOUR GOVERNMENT WISHES MORE DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING ORBITAL PATHS, WE WILL BE GLAD TO PROVIDE IT.

3. FOR PEKING: YOU SHOULD OPEN YOUR APPROACH BY REFERRING TO OUR REQUEST IN 1973 FOR PRC COOPERATION DURING SKYLAB MISSION THAT YEAR. YOU SHOULD ALSO AMEND LAST SENTENCE IN PARA 1 TO STATE WE WILL SOON PROVIDE THE MINISTRY PRE-CISE DATA REGARDING OVERFLIGHTS OF THE PRC BY THE APOLLO/SOYUZ MISSION. FYI: REQUESTS FOR PRC COOPERATION, INCLUDING REFERENCE TO NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, AND DATA ON SKYLAB WERE PASSED TO THE PRC IN 1973 THROUGH US EMBASSY PARIS AND USLO PEKING. END FYI

4. FOR PARIS: IN PAST YEARS FRENCH HAVE TAKEN PRECAUTION IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR ATMOSPHERIC TESTING TO ASSURE THAT IT DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH ANY PLANNED US SPACE FLIGHTS. WE REALIZE THAT FRENCH PLAN TO CONDUCT ANY TESTS THIS YEAR UNDERGROUND. EMBASSY SHOULD NEVERTHELESS INFORM THE SERVICE DES PACTES THAT WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THIS CHANGE IN FRENCH PLANS, WE WISH TO BRING TO THEIR ATTENTION THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING THE PLANNED MANNED SPACE-FLIGHT MISSION OF THE APOLLO/SOYUZ TEST FLIGHT, WHICH HAS A SCHEDULED LAUNCH DATE OF JULY 15. THE LOW ALTITUDE

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IS TO BE 118 NM AT WHICH EYE DAMAGE COULD OCCUR IF A LOW ALTITUDE NUCLEAR DETONATION WERE VISIBLE. THE SPACECRAFT WILL FOLLOW AN ORBITAL PATH BETWEEN 52 DEGREES NORTH AND 52 DEGREES SOUTH. THE SOYUZ SPACECRAFT WILL LAND ON JULY 21 AND APOLLO ON JULY 24. WE WOULD BE GLAD TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON ORBITAL PATHS IF FRENCH DESIRE. MAW

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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